

County of Los Angeles – Department of Mental Health
OFFICE OF THE MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION

Thursday, October 27, 2011

~ **Approved Minutes** ~

**Please note the minutes are a brief summary and
not a word for word transcription of events at this meeting.**

Larry Gasco, Chairman, Presiding

I. Call to Order – Larry Gasco

- The meeting was called to order by Larry Gasco
- Roll Call – Canetana Hurd
Attendance recorded as follows:
Absent Excused: Greg Thompson, Howard Askins, Ilean Rabens, Barry Perrou, Victoria Sofro, and Phillip Chen
- Approval of Minutes – Larry Gasco
September 2011 minutes were unanimously approved.
MSC - Sosa/Huffman

II. Chairman's Report – Larry Gasco

- **Chairman** – Larry Gasco discussed the following:
Public comments – In terms of public comments and time management Mr. Gasco requested guest who wish to address the Commission complete the public comment form and give it to staff before the Public Comment item comes up on the agenda.
Completing the forms in advance will allow each speaker the allotted time before the meeting adjournment.
Commissioner participation – Mr. Gasco encouraged Commissioners to attend subcommittee meetings. He stated Commissioner visibility at meetings is important for engaging community and client stakeholder interest and participation.
- **Executive Committee Report**
 1. Terry Lewis gave an update on "Jen's Place, a thrift shop plan in honor of Jennifer King. Development on the thrift shop is moving forward.
 2. **Translators** attended the meeting. They discussed when DMH book jobs and cancel at the last minute it s a . Last minute cancellations create added cost and are problematic for traveling translators. Mr. Gasco stated translation services are a value to the relationship of a client and therapist.
 3. **DMH Report** – AB 109 implementation started October 1. DMH will provide mental health and drug addition treatment to parolees released from state prison facilities. Uninsured people can enroll in Healthy Way LA primary care at both mental health and health service facilities. DMH continues to work with DHS to limit emergency room crowding. The big challenge is money spent on getting more beds will reduce availability of funds to spend on critical things.

4. **MHC/SAAC Chairs Report** – Jacqueline Kechedzian gave the report. The SAAC Chairs updated the group on activities in their perspective communities. They discussed issues involving the parolees, universal mission statement, and receiving the SLT (System Leadership Team) minutes. DMH Executive Management Team continues to review the universal mission statement.

Mr. Lubin added; a Consumer Reports survey of 59 out of 60 health care organizations both HMO and PPO ranked Kaiser Permanente in Northern California #1 and the Southern California Kaiser #2 in health care services.

Holly Kiger gave handouts on upcoming research conferences and current newsletter.

LACCC was asked to come up with 15 questions to interview candidates for Eduardo Vega's vacated position.

- **Latino Coalition Complaint** – The complaint from Mr. Carlos Orellana was resolved (see Chairman's report-9/22/11). DMH was commended by Chairman for the rapid response satisfactory outcome to Mr. Orellana. Clients commented the welcome they receive at the DMH 695 Headquarters building has improved tremendously because of one DMH employee who spoke up to address their complaints.
- **New Commissioner** – Judy Cooperberg is the new appointee from Supervisor Michael Antonovich's District (Fifth). Ms. Cooperberg's appointment is pending official board approval.
- **Commission Budget** – The Commission will proceed with DMH budget staff to increase its budget amount for fiscal year 2011/2012.

III. DMH Report

Legislative Report – Susan Rajlal

Ms. Rajlal discussed bills of interest to county mental health that were signed into law this year by Governor Brown.

- **Bullying**
AB 9 Pupils Rights and AB 1156 Pupils
This legislation is of interest because it may impact the plan, design and implementation of MHSA programs that include student mental health.
- **Foster Care**
AB 212 CA Fostering Connections to Success Act
This bill provides an extension of transitional foster care up to age 20. Eligibility of foster care may impact plans to the extent they are becoming financial responsible for EPSDT coverage beginning in FY 2012-2013 under 2011 Realignment.

- **Medi-Cal**

AB 396 Juvenile Inmates

If federal approval is obtained, the bill will reduce fiscal strain on counties by allowing them to seek Medi-Cal reimbursement for inpatient and psychiatric treatment to minors outside of the county detention facility for more than 24 hours.

AB 1296 Health Care Eligibility, Enrollment, and Retention Act

This bill is an excellent start to creating a comprehensive health care enrollment system in California. Other counties want to assist in further developing the provisions of the enrollment system.

SB 695 – County juvenile detention facilities

If federal is obtained, the bill will reduce fiscal strain on counties allowing them to draw down federal Medi-Cal reimbursement to help defray the cost of providing medical and mental health care to juveniles awaiting adjudication in county facilities.

- **Mental Health Services Act**

AB 989 Children's services

As MHSA plans are being developed to serve TAY, it is now required to consider the needs of transition age foster youth.

- **Inmate: Involuntary Psychotropic Medication**

AB 114 Involuntary administration of Psychotropic medications

Under realignment 2011, counties will take on increasing responsibilities for criminal justice populations, it is vital for psychotropic medications to be sustained during an individuals' time spent in a prison setting so that upon release, the individual's mental illness symptoms are being appropriately treated.

- **Healthy Families**

SB 36 County Health Initiative Matching Fund

If federal is obtained, this bill allows county systems that elect to use local funds draw down federal funds through an intergovernmental transfer to provide health care and mental health coverage including SED children whose families are below 400% of the poverty level.

Ms. Rajlal announced Governor Jerry Brown appointed Secretary Diana Dooley to lead the Department of Health and Human Services. Ms. Rajlal announced she was invited by Secretary Dooley to join a workgroup.

IV. **Special Presentation** – Clinical & Translational Science Institute Holly Kiger, RN, MN, CNS

Ms. Kiger's background is in nursing focusing on older adults. She is a Research Navigator for the SC CTSI (Southern California Clinical and Translational Science Institute), a multi-disciplinary healthcare research partnership between USC, Kaiser, Childrens' Hospital, DMH and DHS, and the Community Clinic Association of LA County. The SC CTSI is one of 65 research institutes in 28 states created by the US National Institutes of

Health. Ms. Kiger is actively involved in the Office of Community Engagement. It is one of eight centers within the SC CTSI. The office is the bridge between the CTSI (academia) and the community partners. Its focus is to share information with communities and universities prioritizing health and mental health issues.

Ms. Kiger has been meeting with DMH and contract agency staff, SAAC members, and other systems of care networks affiliates of DMH. Ms. Kiger plans to use the information to help create new community partnerships and research teams; help the department evaluate current program structure; and provide education and training, workshops and seminars.

V. **Commissioners' Reports**

Frank Baron – Mr. Baron attended the California Local Mental Health Board and Commissions quarterly meeting in October along with Larry Gasco, Delores Huffman, and Terry Lewis. The meeting went well and continues to be conducted with courtesy and control. The group discussed conducting training specifically for communities about the CALMHBC titled *CALMHBC 101*. The group also requested Susan Rajlal come to speak on legislative issues.

Jerry Lubin – Mr. Lubin spoke about Gateways wants to provide services for 136 clients the amount authorized by state licensing. LA City Planning wants to limit the number to 96. Mr. Lubin testified at a LA City Council hearing to oppose the ruling.

Mr. Lubin attended the recent Asian American conference. Interesting research on Thai Chi and its affect on mental health were presented.

George Caballero – Mr. Caballero continues to bridge universities and mental health clinics to use interns. Mr. Caballero has identified 2 more internships; his goal is to have 10 internships by the end of the year.

Hayward McNeill – Mr. McNeill expressed appreciation for the well wishes and cards of sympathy received from friends.

Delores Huffman – Ms Huffman discussed the housing report on projects from July through October 2011. Adjustments to the number of active RFPs continue to free up more dollars to complete housing developments.

Ms. Huffman is on the planning committee for the BLACCC (Black Los Angeles County Client Coalition) 5th Annual Community and Cultural Event Forum scheduled December 3 at the Charles Drew University of Medicine and Science in the Keck Lecture Hall Auditorium.

VI. Community and SAAC Reports

SAAC 6 – Dorothy Banks

Ms. Banks attended the free medical clinic held at the LA Arena sponsored by CareNow Non-Profit organization. Ms. Banks was featured at the event on a Channel 2 news segment. She stated how valuable the CareNow non-profit effort was to the community. It promotes leading healthy lifestyles.

The following topics were discussed at last SAAC 6 meeting:

- Medi-Cal presentation
- Parolees released in LA County
- DMH staff training

LACCC (Los Angeles County Client Coalition) – Pam Inaba

Pam Inada reported LACCC is working on a voter registration drive as an outreach activity. The Coalition completed questions for the new client director recruitment process. Ms. Inaba announced an upcoming conference, "*Innovations In Recovery Conference*" will be held February 3, 2012 at the California Endowment, Yosemite Room. The conference is sponsored by the LACCC and workshops will be presented by consumers.

VII. Public Comments –

William Legre – Discussed the growing gap between the rich and the poor

Robert Coto – Commented on the rally and realignment issues

Cindy Vitto – Discussed the perception of Hollywood Community Policy Academy Advisory Board regarding AB 109 (release of state prisoners to county jails).

Dr. Dennis W. O'Brien – How are consumers being included in the realignment talks, and are the meetings public?

Barbara Wilson – Asking for support a positing that HIPPA regulations be amended to provide relatives access to information as to whether or not our loved one is in a mental health system. Specific information about their address, etc, is not being requested.

VIII. Meeting adjournment

The Los Angeles County Mental Health Commission meeting on October 27, 2011 was adjourned in memory of Father Gary Michael Kinzer who passed October 5, 2011. Father Gary Kinzer was appointed by Supervisor Don Knabe to serve as a Commissioner from February 2, 2002 until July, 1, 2006.

MSC – Baron/Huffman

IX. Next meeting information

**Thursday, November 17, 2011
12 – 2:30 pm
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Room 739
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012**

Please contact the Commission office at (213) 738 4772 if you need more information

Minutes prepared by Canetana Hurd